

JOB TITLE: Arborist
DEPARTMENT: Parks

GRADE: W-5A
DATE: April 2006

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

Functions as a member in overall municipal team to ensure effective and efficient municipal operations.

DEFINITION:

Highly skilled technical and manual work relating to the maintenance of trees, shrubs and fine turf areas within the Town of Walpole.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED:

Works under the general supervision of the Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent and Foreman.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: None

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Works under general supervision, with progress subject to infrequent guidance and checking. Ability to carry out oral and written work assignments in a professional manner according to Mass Arborist Association guidelines wherever applicable according to a prescribed time schedule.

Must be able to understand and implement the rules, regulations or guidelines of the Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau.

Must be familiar with and must be experienced with all the proper safety techniques involved in climbing trees and handling chemicals. Failure to follow proper procedures could result in serious injury or death to oneself, fellow workers or the general public.

EXAMPLES OF WORK:

Prunes and/or removes trees and shrubs wherever assigned. Climbs trees whenever necessary to accomplish the task at hand. Applies chemicals to trees, shrubs, turf areas and along public ways for the purpose of controlling weeds and insects. Maintains chainsaws, wood chipper, sprayers, and other tools necessary to perform the work properly.

Plants and cares for trees and shrubs; grades, seeds, fertilizes and maintains lawns. Construction and maintenance of parks, ball fields and cemeteries; operates lawn mowers, grades fields and preps ball fields; During snow and ice operations, plowing, shoveling of steps, walkways and entrances to all town buildings and schools.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

Education and Experience: High school graduate with one (1) full year's experience in climbing trees and work related thereto.

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills: Working knowledge of methods, materials and tools used in pruning and/or removal of trees and shrubs and use of chemicals; working knowledge of the occupational hazards and safety precautions of the trade; skill in operation of the listed tools and equipment; ability to follow proper methods, procedures and safety precautions on Arborist work. Ability to understand and follow complex oral and written instructions; Ability to work under varying weather conditions.

SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS:

Possession of CDL Class B license with air brakes endorsement.

Must have passed the certification exam given by the Massachusetts Arborists Association, ie; Massachusetts Certified Arborist in good standing and possession of valid Massachusetts Pesticide Applicator's License certified in categories 36,37 and 40.

Loss of any of the above qualifications will result in termination from this classification.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED:

Pruning sheers, clippers, chain saw, etc. Climbing equipment and operate bucket truck and wood chipper.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to stand; walk; use hands to finger, handle, feel or operate objects, tools, or controls; and reach with hands and arms. The employee is frequently required to sit; climb or balance; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl; talk or hear; Employee is occasionally required to taste or smell.

The employee must frequently lift and/or move up to 25 pounds and occasionally lift and/or move up to 100 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee regularly works in outside weather conditions. The employee occasionally works near moving mechanical parts and in high, precarious places such as in trees, using appropriate safety equipment and procedures. The employee may occasionally be exposed to wet and/or humid conditions, fumes or airborne particles, traffic, toxic or caustic chemicals, risk of electrical shock, and vibration. Appropriate safety precautions should be used to protect self and other employees from any danger.

The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate to loud.

Revised 1997

Revised 2006

Regraded 2006 (W5 to W5A)